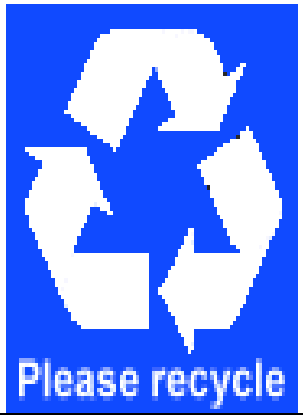

Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter **October 2010**

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218 (804) 698-4029 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome *to Recycling Lines. If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at* steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov.

Recycling in Virginia, 2009

DEQ will soon release its calendar year 2009 summary of recycling in the Commonwealth, and it will report that for the first time since recycling was mandated by the General Assembly, that all 71 solid waste planning units (SWPUs) met or exceeded their mandated recycling level. Twenty-one SWPUs reported rates between 15% and 25%, and 50 SWPUs reported rates above 25%.

Principal recyclable materials, or PRMs, accounted for over 2.7 million tons of material, with paper, metal, yard and wood waste accounting for the bulk of the materials recycled. This level of recycling calculates to a statewide recycling rate of over 38% for calendar year 2009.

The report will be posted on DEQ's website at www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle. For more information, contact Steve Coe at 804-698-4029 or at steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov.

Calendar of Events

October 12-14: Governor's Conference on Energy, Richmond. (http://www.vsbn.org/GCE2010/index.html)

November 4: VRA Membership Meeting/RMDC Meeting. Charlottesville Omni (www.vrarecycles.org)

November 7-11: SERDC's 2010 Conference, Point Clear, Alabama. (http://serdc.org/events?eventId=138537&EventViewDetails)

November 15: America/Virginia Recycles Day

Web Links of Interest

www.vt.edu/sustainability

http://www.statefairva.org/green-initiatives

http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/ecycling/manage.htm

http://www.deq.virginia.gov/waste/tanningSalonFactSheet.html

Did You Know?

- The Can Manufacturers Institute recently celebrated the 200th anniversary of the food can. The "can-niversary" was celebrated with a history of the can information posted on this website: http://www.canniversary.com.
- EPA has updated its Food Recovery Hierarchy to include anaerobic digestion as "Industrial Uses: Provide fats for rendering; oil for fuel; food discards for animal feed production; or anaerobic digestion combined with soil amendment production or composting of the residuals. Visit www.epa.gov/foodrecovery for the revised hierarchy information.
- You can find listings for composters in your area by visiting www.findacomposter.com.

Diverting Organics an Environmental Benefit

By diverting organic materials, communities can reduce the methane emissions associated with landfills, the second largest anthropogenic source of methane in the United States.

By diverting organic materials from landfills, "waste" can become a renewable resource, like energy, a soil amendment, or both!

Food waste accounts for 18% of waste currently reaching landfills in the United States.

Food waste has three times the methane production potential of biosolids.

In California alone there are almost 140 wastewater treatment facilities that utilize anaerobic digesters, with an estimated excess capacity of 15-30%

If 50% of the food waste generated each year in the U.S. was anaerobically digested, enough electricity would be generated to power over 2.5 million homes for a year.

This is why the US EPA Food Recovery Initiative and the WasteWise Program have joined forces to challenge business, industry, and institutions to reduce, donate, and recycle as much of their food waste as possible – saving money and helping protect the environment. Through the Food Recovery Challenge, participating organizations have the opportunity to receive national recognition for their outstanding Challenge achievements. Visit www.epa.gov/foodrecoverychallenge for more information on this program.

EPA's ´Greenest School´ Challenge

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is setting up a recycling challenge for "Greenest School" bragging rights at college football games this season. The 2010 Game Day Challenge will look for the best waste reduction plans, which can be submitted by any college that has a football team.

For one home football game in October, schools can collect common materials for recycling including paper, beverage containers, cardboard, and food to be donated and composted. The amount of waste generated and recycled will determine which school is the greenest.

Categories include:

- Least amount of waste generated per attendee

- Greatest greenhouse gas reductions

- Highest recycling rate

- Highest organics reduction (i.e., food donation or composting)

- Highest combined recycling and composting rate.

Winners will be publicized on EPA´s website. The competition is sponsored by EPA´s WasteWise program, a voluntary program through which organizations eliminate costly municipal solid waste and select industrial wastes, benefiting their bottom line and the environment. Launched in 1994, the program has more than 2,700 members.

To register for the Game Day Challenge: https://my.re-trac.com/gameday. For more information, visit http://epa.gov/gameday.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Amanda Smith-Teutsch at 330-865-6166 or asmith-teutsch@crain.com

USDA Announces Funding to Expand School Community Gardens and Garden-Based Learning Opportunities

USDA announced that it will establish a People's Garden School Pilot Program to develop and run community gardens at eligible high-poverty schools; teach students involved in the gardens about agriculture production practices, diet, and nutrition; and evaluate the learning outcomes. This $1 million pilot program is authorized under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. A cooperative agreement will be awarded to implement a program in up to five States. To be eligible as project sites, schools must have 50 percent or more students qualifying for free or reduced-price school meals.

The Request for Applications is available on-line at http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/outreach/grants/garden.htm . The deadline for applications is November 8, 2010.

Water Conservation Tips (An average home uses more than 200 gallons of water per day.

- **Clothes washer** - 21.7% of water use; 56,000 gallons/year. Operate only full loads and/or use correct volume settings. Consider replacement - old washers use approximately 41 gallons per load, while new high-efficiency machines use only 23 gallons.
- **Dishwasher** - 1.4% of water use; 3600 gallons/year. Wash full loads. Consider replacement - reduce by 30-50% water usage per load
- **Faucet** - 16% of water use; 35,000 gallons/year. Turn off the water running while brushing teeth, shaving, or washing. Catch "warm-up" water and use for plants. Consider installing low flow restrictors/aerators to faucets ($2-4)
- **Showerhead** - 16% of water use; 37,000 gallons/year. Take shorter showers (typical shower lasts 8 minutes and uses 17 gallons; an efficient shower lasts 3 or 4 minutes and uses 7.5 gallons) .
- **Leaks** 14% of water use; 30,000 gallons/year. Check for and repair toilet leaks - will waste from 30 to 500 gallons of water per day. Fix faucet leaks (usually a washer will work) - a gradual dripping faucet can leak up to 5 gallons of water per day.
- **Toilet** - 27% of water use; 60,000 gallons/year. Replace with low-water flush model. Fix leaks.

Light Bulb Plant Closes in Virginia

The last major General Electric factory making ordinary incandescent light bulbs in the United States closed in September, marking the end for a product and company that can trace their roots to Thomas Alva Edison's innovations in the 1870s. The Winchester plant employed over 200 workers.

A 2007 energy conservation measure passed by Congress that set standards essentially banning ordinary incandescents by 2014 was the impetus for the closing. The law will require millions of American households to switch to more efficient bulbs, with savings in energy and a reduction greenhouse-gas emissions the expected result.

Rather than setting off a boom in the U.S. manufacture of replacement lights, the leading replacement lights are compact fluorescents, or CFLs, which are made almost entirely overseas. Although lighting manufacturers have investigated setting up CFL production facilities in the U.S., it is reported that domestic costs make such operations uneconomical.